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MONTANA'S LOCAL PLANNING LEGISLATION

PUBLISHED BY

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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UNOFFICIAL COPY OF:  
CHAPTER 38, SECTIONS 11-3801 THROUGH 11-3858  
CITY, COUNTY, OR CITY-COUNTY PLANNING BOARDS

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11-3801. City planning boards, county planning boards and city-county planning boards authorized--purpose of act. The governing body of any city or town, or the governing bodies of more than one city or town, or the governing body of any county, or any combination thereof, may create a planning board in order to promote the orderly development of its governmental units and its environs. It is the object of this legislation to encourage local units of government to improve the present health, safety, convenience and welfare of their citizens and to plan for the future development of their communities to the end that highway systems be carefully planned; that new community centers grow only with adequate highway, utility, health, educational, and recreational facilities; that the needs of agriculture, industry, and business be recognized in future growth;

that residential areas provide healthy surroundings for family life; and that the growth of the community be commensurate with and promotive of the efficient and economical use of public funds.

In accomplishing this objective, it is the intent of this legislation that the planning board shall serve in an advisory capacity to presently established boards and officials.

Before a county planning board may be created, the board of county commissioners shall, by resolution, give public notice of their intent to create such planning board and of a public hearing thereon, by publication of notice of time and place of hearing on such resolution in each newspaper published in the county not less than fifteen (15) nor more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of hearing. A resolution creating a county planning board shall not be adopted by the board of county commissioners if disapproved in writing, not later than sixty (60) days after such hearing, by a majority of the qualified electors of the county residing outside the limits of the jurisdictional area of an existing city-county planning board established pursuant to section 11-3830 and outside the incorporated limits of each city and town in the county.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

11-3802. Existence and actions of existing boards. Upon the taking effect of this act, a planning board heretofore established shall continue to operate as though authorized under the terms of the present act. All actions lawfully taken under prior acts or ordinances are hereby validated and continued in effect until amended or repealed by action taken under the authority of this act.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3803. Definitions. As used in this act:

1. "City" includes incorporated cities and towns.
2. "City council" means the chief legislative body of a city or incorporated town.
3. "Planning board" means a city planning board or a joint city-county planning board.

4. "Master plan" means a comprehensive development plan or any of its parts such as a plan of land use and zoning, of thoroughfares, or sanitation, of recreation, and other related matters. The plan may propose ordinances or resolutions for possible adoption by the appropriate governing body.

5. "Public place" means any tract owned by the state or its subdivisions.

6. "Mayor" means mayor of a city.

7. "Streets" includes streets, avenues, boulevards, roads, lanes, alleys, and all public ways.

8. "Units of government" means any federal, state, regional, county, city or town.

9. "Utility" means any facility used in rendering service which the public has a right to demand.

10. "Person" means individual, firm, or corporation.

11. "Governing body or governing bodies" means the governing body of any governmental unit represented on a planning board.

12. "Plat" means a subdivision of land into lots, streets and areas, marked upon the earth and represented on paper; and includes re-plats or amended plats.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 349, L. 1973.

11-3804. City planning board. A city planning board shall consist of not less than seven (7) members to be appointed as follows:

a. One (1) member to be appointed by the city council from its membership;

b. One (1) member to be appointed by the city council who may in the discretion of the city council be an employee or hold public office in the city or county in which the city is located;

c. One (1) member to be appointed by the mayor upon the designation by the county commissioners of the county in which the city is located;

d. Four (4) citizen members to be appointed by the mayor, two (2) of whom shall be resident freeholders within the urban area, if any, outside of the city limits over which the planning board has jurisdiction under this act and two (2) of whom shall be resident freeholders within the city limits. Such citizen members shall hold no other office in the city government.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1959.

11-3805. Intention of city to create planning board--county to decide whether to create city-county board or permit city board. Prior to enacting an ordinance creating a city planning board, the city council shall notify in writing, the county commissioners of the county in which the city is located of their intention to form a city planning board.

The board of county commissioners shall elect to form a city-county planning board or to permit the city to form a city planning board and shall notify in writing the city council of its election within thirty (30) days from receipt of notice of the city's intention to form a planning board. In the event the county commissioners so elect the planning board so to be formed shall be a city-county planning board.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3806. Member of council to serve on city planning board--term--vacancies. As soon as the city council has enacted an ordinance creating a city planning board, the city council shall select a member of its body to serve on the planning board. The term of the appointed member shall be coextensive with the term of office to which he has been elected or appointed, unless the council, on its first regular meeting of each year, appoints another to serve as its representative or unless his term is terminated as hereinafter provided.

The city council shall fill any vacancy occurring in its respective membership on the planning board.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3807. Appointments--certification. The clerk of the city council shall certify members appointed by its body. The certificates shall be sent to and become a part of the records of the planning board. The mayor shall make similar certification for the appointment of citizen members.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 236, L. 1957.

11-3808. Citizen members--qualifications. The citizen members shall be qualified by knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to the development of the city and shall hold no other office in the city government and shall be resident freeholders of such city or jurisdictional area as defined in section 11-3830, R.C.M. 1947.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3809. Repealed--Chapter 271, Laws of 1959.

11-3810. County planning boards and city-county planning boards--members--term of officer members and citizen members.

1. A city-county planning board shall consist of not less than nine (9) members to be appointed as follows:

a. Two (2) official members who reside outside the city limits to be appointed by the board of county commissioners who may in the discretion of the board of county commissioners be employed by or hold public office in the county.

b. Two (2) official members to be appointed by the city council who may in the discretion of the city council be employed by or hold public office in the city.

c. Two (2) citizen members to be appointed by the mayor of the city.

d. Two (2) citizen members to be appointed by the board of county commissioners. The two (2) members shall reside outside the city limits but within the jurisdictional area of the planning board.

e. The ninth member shall be selected by the eight (8) officers and citizen members hereinabove provided for with the consent and approval of the board of county commissioners and the city council.

2. County planning boards shall consist of not less than five (5) members appointed by the board of county commissioners. At least one (1) member of any county planning board existing at or formed after July 1, 1973, shall be a member of the governing board of a conservation district as provided for in section 76-105 or a state cooperative grazing district, if officers of either reside in said county.

In the event that any city or town subsequently becomes represented on the county planning board pursuant to section 11-3815, additional members of the planning board representing such cities or towns shall be appointed by the respective city councils.

3. The terms of the members who are officers of any governmental unit represented on the board shall be coextensive with their respective terms of office to which they have been elected or appointed; the terms of the other members shall be two (2) years, except that the terms of the first members appointed shall be fixed by agreement and rule of the governing bodies represented on the board for one (1) or two (2) years in order that a minimum number of terms shall expire in any year.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1965; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 349, L. 1973.

11-3811. Vacancies. Vacancies occurring on the board of official members, and by death or resignation of citizen members, shall be filled by the governing bodies having appointed them for the unexpired term.

Vacancies occurring in citizen members on the city-county planning board at the end of a term shall be filled alternately by the mayor and the board of county commissioners represented on the board, commencing with the mayor. Vacancies occurring in citizen members on the county planning board at the end of a term shall be filled by the board of county commissioners. In the event more than one (1) city is represented on a board the representation and appointments to be made by the respective cities and counties shall be by agreement and rule of the board.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

11-3812. Citizen members of county planning board and city-county planning board--Qualifications. The citizen members of the county planning board shall be resident freeholders in the area over which the planning board has jurisdiction. The citizen members of the city-county planning board shall be resident freeholders in the area over which the planning board has jurisdiction, provided, however, that at least two (2) of such members shall be resident freeholders in the area, if any, outside the city limits over which the planning board has jurisdiction.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

11-3813. Removal of citizen appointee. Any citizen appointed may be removed from office by a majority vote of the governing body of the governmental unit represented by such appointee.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 246, L. 1957; am. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3814. County representative for city planning board. As soon as a city council has enacted an ordinance creating a city planning board, the board of county commissioners of the county wherein the city is located shall within forty-five (45) days designate a representative of the county, which representative may be a member of the board of county commissioners or an officeholder or employee of the county, to the mayor of the city for appointment of the city planning board; in the event of the failure of the county to so designate such member, the mayor may appoint a person of his own choosing and at his sole discretion as a representative of the county.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3815. Representation of additional cities, towns, or county on existing boards. Any city, county, or town, or any combination thereof wishing to be represented upon an existing planning board, may by agreement of the governing body or bodies then represented upon the board, obtain representation thereon and share in the membership duties and costs of the board upon a basis agreeable to the governing body or bodies creating the board.

The membership as well as the jurisdictional area of any board may be increased to provide for representation and planning of any additional cities, counties, or towns seeking representation.

Any city, county, or town which becomes represented upon an existing planning board pursuant to this section may appropriate funds for expenses necessary to cover the costs of such representation. The governing bodies of any city or county so being represented may levy on all property which is added to the jurisdictional area of an existing board by such representation a tax for planning board purposes under procedures set forth in Title 16, Chapter 19, R.C.M. 1947, or Title 11, Chapter 14, R.C.M. 1947, whichever is applicable; provided such tax shall not exceed the maximum levy authorized in section 11-3826, R.C.M. 1947.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 246, L. 1957; am. Sec. 5, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3815.1. Joint or consolidated planning boards. (1) Any existing county, city-county, or city planning board may form a joint or consolidated planning board with any other existing county, city-county, or city planning board or with any combination of these boards.

(2) The manner of combination shall be by interlocal agreement of the cities, counties and towns represented on the existing planning boards pursuant to Title 16, chapter 49, R.C.M. 1947.

(3) The interlocal agreement shall:

(a) state the name of the combined board;

(b) specify whether a joint or combined board is formed;

(c) specify the representation, means and manner of appointment, membership duties and manner of sharing costs of the combined board which may be on any basis agreeable to the governing bodies of the cities, counties, and towns represented on the existing planning boards.

(4) If a consolidated board is formed, the existing county, city-county, and city planning boards shall be dissolved, and the consolidated boards shall have all of the rights, duties, powers, and obligations of the existing planning boards.

(5) If a joint board is formed, the existing planning board shall not be dissolved and the joint board shall have such rights, duties, powers, and obligations as are set forth in the interlocal agreement.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 101, L. 1975.

11-3816. Meetings. The board shall fix the time for holding regular meetings, but it shall meet at least once in the months of January, April, July and October.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3817. Special meetings. Special meetings of the planning board may be called by the president or by two (2) members upon written request to the secretary. The secretary shall send to all members, at least two (2) days in advance of a special meeting, a written notice fixing the time and place of the meeting.

Written notice of a special meeting is not required if the time of the special meeting has been fixed in a regular meeting, or if all members are present at the special meeting.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3818. Quorum--official action. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum; no action of the planning board is official, however, unless authorized by a majority of members of the board at a regular or properly called special meeting.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3819. Members not to receive salary. The members of planning boards shall receive no salary for serving on the planning board, but may be reimbursed from local funds for transportation and actual expenses up to but not exceeding state transportation reimbursements and allowable expenses incurred in attending planning board meetings.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 291, L. 1974.

11-3820. Expenses while attending conferences in another city, county, or state. When the planning board determines that it is necessary for members or employees to attend, in another city, county or state a regional or national conference or interview dealing with planning or related problems, the planning board may pay the actual expenses of the attending members or employee provided the amount has been made available in the board's appropriation.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3821. President and vice-president. At its first regular meeting in each year, the board shall elect from its members a president and vice-president. The vice-president shall have authority to act as president of the board during the absence or disability of the president.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3822. Secretary--contracts for services. The board may appoint and prescribe the duties and fix the compensation of a secretary, and such employees as are necessary for the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the board.

The board may make contracts for special or temporary services and any professional services.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3823. Offices. The city or county shall provide suitable offices for the holding of meetings and the preservation of plans, maps, documents, and accounts.

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3824. Powers and duties. To effectuate the purpose of this act, the board shall have the power and duty to:

1. Exercise general supervision of and make regulations for the administration of the affairs of the board.

2. Prescribe uniform rules pertaining to investigations and hearings.

3. Supervise the fiscal affairs and responsibilities of the board.

4. Prescribe the qualifications of, appoint, remove, and fix the compensation of the employees of the board, and delegate to employees authority to perform ministerial acts in all cases except where final action of the board is necessary.

5. Keep an accurate and complete record of all departmental proceedings; record and file all bonds and contracts and assume responsibility for the custody and preservation of all papers and documents of the board.

6. Make recommendations and an annual report to any governing bodies represented on the board concerning the operation of the board and the status of planning within its jurisdiction.

7. Prepare, publish, and distribute reports, proposed ordinances and proposed resolutions and other material relating to the activities authorized under this act.

8. Prepare and submit to the governing bodies represented on the board an annual budget in the same manner as other departments of the city and county governments and shall be limited in all expenditures to the provisions made therefor by the governing bodies represented upon the board.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 236, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3825. Funds for operation--tax levy authority. 1. After a city council has by ordinance, a board of county commissioners has, by ordinance and resolution, or a city council and board of county commissioners have, by ordinance and resolution, created a planning board, the governing bodies represented upon such board may appropriate funds to carry out the duties of the planning board.

2. When a planning board has been created by agreement of more than one (1) governmental unit, the governing bodies of the governmental units which have created the board shall agree upon the proportion of expenditures to be borne by each such unit and may budget and appropriate the funds necessary for the respective shares thus agreed upon.

3. The governing body of any city or town represented upon a planning board may levy a tax upon the property located within such city or town not to exceed two (2) mills for planning board purposes, under procedures set forth in Title 11, chapter 14, R.C.M. 1947, provided such tax shall not exceed the maximum levy authorized in section 11-3825, paragraph 6, R.C.M. 1947.

4. When a city-county planning board has been established, the board of county commissioners may create a planning district which shall include that property within the jurisdictional areas as established pursuant to section 11-3830, which lies outside the limits of any incorporated cities and towns; and the board of county commissioners may levy on all property located within such planning district a tax for planning board purposes, under procedures set forth in Title 16, chapter 19, R.C.M. 1947, provided such tax shall not exceed the maximum levy authorized in section 11-3825, paragraph 6, R.C.M. 1947.

5. When a county planning board has been established, the board of county commissioners may create a planning district which shall include that property which lies outside the limits of the jurisdictional area as established pursuant to section 11-3830 or as modified pursuant to section 11-3830.2 in counties where a city-county planning board has been established as well as that property which lies outside the limits of any incorporated cities and towns; and the board of county commissioners may levy on all property located within such planning district a tax not to exceed two (2) mills for planning board purposes under procedures set forth in Title 16, chapter 19, R.C.M. 1947.

6. The tax levy for planning board purposes shall be limited as follows: a city of the first class, as defined in section 11-201 of this code, may levy a tax not to exceed two (2) mills; a city of the second class may levy a tax not to exceed four (4) mills; a city of the third class may levy a tax not to exceed six (6) mills and a town may levy a tax not to exceed six (6) mills.

A county of the first class, as defined in section 15-2419 of this code, may levy a tax not to exceed two (2) mills; a county of the second class may levy a tax not to exceed three (3) mills; a county of the third class may levy a tax not to exceed four (4) mills; a county of the fourth class may levy a tax not to exceed five (5) mills and counties of the fifth, sixth, and seventh classes may levy a tax not to exceed six (6) mills.

History: En. Sec. 25, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

11-3826. Authority to expend money. The planning board shall have authority to expend, under regular city or county procedure as provided by law, all sums appropriated to it for purposes and activities authorized by this act.

History: En. Sec. 26, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3827. Power to accept and use gifts and donations--special nonreverting fund--federal and state aid. A city, county or city-county planning board organized pursuant to the provisions of this title, is hereby empowered and given the right to accept, receive, take, hold, own and possess any gift, donation, grant, devise or bequest, or any property, real, personal or mixed, or any improved or unimproved park or playground, and utilize, hold, or dispose of the same for planning purposes, not inconsistent with the provisions of this act. Any moneys so accepted shall be deposited with the city or county in a special nonreverting planning board fund to be available for expenditures by the planning board for the purpose designated by the donor. The disbursing officer of a city or county shall draw warrants against such special nonreverting fund only upon vouchers signed by the president and secretary of the planning board. Upon approval of the governing bodies represented on the board, a planning board may accept, receive, and expend funds, grants, and services from the federal government, or its agencies and instrumentalities of state or local government, or from civic sources and contract with respect thereto, and provide such information and reports as may be necessary to secure such financial aid.

History: En. Sec. 27, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 133, L. 1965.

11-3828. Master plan--policies. 1. To assure the promotion of public health, safety, morals, convenience, order, or the general welfare and for the sake of efficiency and economy in the process of community development, the planning board shall prepare a master plan and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the local governing bodies establishing the planning board.

2. The planning board may also propose policies for:

a. subdivision plats.

b. the development of public ways, public places, public structures; and public and private utilities.

c. the issuance of improvement location permits on platted and unplatte lands.

d. the laying out and development of public ways and services to platted and unplatte lands.

3. The city council may in its discretion require the city-county planning board to function as the zoning commission authorized under section 11-2706, R.C.M. 1947.

4. The governing bodies of the city or county shall give consideration to recommendations of the city-county planning board but the governing bodies shall not be bound by such recommendations.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3829. Departments and officials to supply information and documents requested in connection with preparation of master plan. Whenever the board undertakes the preparation of a master plan, the departments and officials of state, city, county, and separate taxing units operating within lands under the jurisdiction of the board shall make available, upon the request of the board, such information, documents, and plans as have been prepared or upon the request of the board shall provide such information as relates to the board's activity.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 246, L. 1957.

11-3830. Jurisdictional area. 1. The governing bodies represented on a city-county planning board shall by separate resolution establish the jurisdictional area of the planning board. The jurisdictional area shall include the area within the incorporated limits of the city and such contiguous unincorporated area outside the city as, in the judgment of the respective governing bodies, bears reasonable relation to the development of the area involved.

The boundaries of the jurisdictional area can be extended further than four and one-half miles from the limits of the cities only upon petition signed by five per cent (5%) or more of the resident freeholders living in excess of four and one-half miles and not more than twelve miles from the limits of the cities and within the area desiring to be included within said jurisdictional limits, and upon presentation of said petition to the board of county commissioners. Thereafter, the board of county commissioners must, by resolution, set the proposed boundaries of said area and give notice of their intent to add said area to the jurisdictional limits theretofore created and of receipt of said petition, by publication of notice of time and place of hearing on said petition and resolution, said notice to be published in a newspaper published in the county not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty (20) days prior to the date of said hearing. Thereafter, the said boundaries of said area can only be set upon good cause being shown for the establishment of said extended jurisdictional area and the boundaries thereof, provided that such resolution shall not be adopted by the board of county commissioners, if disapproved in writing, by a majority of the freeholders of the territory proposed to be embraced. The jurisdictional area shall not extend more than twelve (12) miles beyond the limits of any city within the jurisdictional area.

2. The planning board, after approval of the jurisdictional area by the governing bodies, shall file in the office of the clerk and recorder a map showing the boundaries of the jurisdictional area. The boundaries may be revised from time to time by resolutions of the governing bodies. Such revised boundaries shall be shown upon a map which shall be filed as provided in this section. The area included in such map shall constitute the area over which the planning board shall have advisory jurisdiction.

3. In case an unincorporated area is within the potential jurisdiction of more than one planning board, then the boundary between the conflicting areas shall be determined by agreement between the planning boards involved, with the approval of their respective governing bodies, and a map showing the boundary lines so agreed upon and approved shall be filed as provided in this section, and thereafter shall fix the limit of territorial jurisdiction of the respective planning boards.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1969.

11-3830.1. Planning projects outside jurisdictional area--broad construction. Any city-county planning board organized pursuant to the provisions of Title 11, chapter 38, S.C.M. 1947, is hereby empowered, if requested by the board of county commissioners, to conduct specific planning projects within the county, and outside of the jurisdictional area of said city-county planning board as defined in section 11-3830, S.C.M. 1947. Such authority to conduct specific planning projects outside of the jurisdictional area of the city-county planning board upon request of the board of county commissioners shall be broadly construed so as to enable the county to qualify under the provisions of and regulations governing any planning assistance program administered by any agency of the United State of America or the state of Montana.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 190, L. 1965.

11-3830.2. Jurisdictional area--county planning board. (1) The board of county commissioners shall by resolution establish the jurisdictional area of the county planning board. The jurisdictional area shall include the area which is both outside the incorporated limits of any city in the county as well as outside the jurisdictional area of an existing city-county planning board established pursuant to section 11-3830. Should any city or town become represented on the county planning board pursuant to section 11-3815, the jurisdictional area of the county planning board shall be extended to include those cities or towns.

(2) The planning board, after the approval of the jurisdictional area by the board of county commissioners, shall file in the office of the clerk and recorder a map showing the boundaries of the jurisdictional area. The boundaries may be revised from time to time by resolution of the board of county commissioners. Such revised boundaries shall be shown upon a map which shall be filed as provided in this section. The area included in such map shall constitute the area over which the planning board shall have advisory jurisdiction.

(3) In case an unincorporated area is within the potential jurisdiction of more than one planning board, then the boundary between the conflicting areas shall be determined by agreement between the planning boards involved, with the approval of their

respective governing bodies. Any map showing the boundary line so agreed upon and approved shall be filed as provided in this section and thereafter shall fix the limit of territorial jurisdiction with respect to planning boards.

(4) In case the jurisdictional area of a city-county planning board, which is established subsequent to the establishment of a county planning board, is potentially within the jurisdiction of the county planning board, then the property outside any incorporated city between the conflicting areas shall be determined by agreement between the planning boards involved with the approval of the respective governing bodies and a map showing the boundary lines so agreed upon shall be filed as provided in this section and thereafter shall fix the limits of the territorial jurisdiction of the respective planning boards.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

11-3831. Master plan--contents. The planning board shall prepare and propose a master plan for the jurisdictional area, which plan may include;

1. Careful and comprehensive surveys and studies of existing conditions and the probable future growth of the city and its environs or of the county.

2. Maps, plats, charts, and descriptive material presenting basic information, locations, extent and character of any of the following:

a. History, population, and physical site conditions;

b. Land use, including the height, area, bulk, location and use of private and public structures and premises;

c. Population densities;

d. Community centers and neighborhood units;

e. Blighted and slum areas;

f. Streets and highways, including bridges, viaducts, subways, parkways, alleys, and other public ways and places;

g. Sewers, sanitation, and drainage, including handling, treatment, and disposal of excess drainage waters, sewage, garbage, refuse, and other wastes;

h. Flood control and prevention;

i. Public and private utilities, including water, light, heat, communication, and other services;

- j. Transportation, including rail, bus, truck, air, and water transport, and their terminal facilities;
- k. Local mass transit, including motor and trolley bus, street, elevated or underground railways, and taxicabs;
- l. Parks and recreation, including parks, playgrounds, reservations, forests, wildlife refuges, and other public grounds, spaces, and facilities of a recreational nature;
- m. Public buildings and institutions, including governmental administration and service buildings, hospitals, infirmaries, clinics, penal and correctional institutions, and other civic and social service buildings;
- n. Education, including location and extent of schools, colleges, and universities;
- o. Land utilization, including areas for manufacturing, and industrial uses, concentration of wholesale, retail business, and other commercial uses, residential, and areas for mixed uses;
- p. Conservation of water, soil, agricultural, and mineral resources;
- q. Any other factors which are a part of the physical, economic, or social situation within the city or county.

3. Reports, maps, charts, and recommendations setting forth plans for the development, redevelopment, improvement, extension, and revision of the subjects and physical situations of the city or county set out in part 2 of this section so as to substantially accomplish the object of this legislation as set out in section 11-3801.

4. A long-range development program of public works' projects, based on the recommended plans of the planning board, for the purpose of eliminating unplanned, unsightly, untimely, and extravagant projects and with a view to stabilizing industry and employment, and the keeping of such program up-to-date, for all separate taxing units within the city or county respectively, for the purpose of assuring efficient and economic use of public funds.

5. Recommendations setting forth the development, improvement, and extension of areas, if any, to be set aside for use as trailer courts and sites for mobile homes.

**History:** En. Sec. 31, Ch. 236, L. 1974; and Sec. 12, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 56, L. 1973.

11-3832. Repealed--Chapter 247, Laws of 1963.

11-3833. Notice of hearing prior to adoption of master plan.

1. Prior to the submission of the proposed master plan to the governing bodies, the board shall give notice and hold a public hearing on the plan.

2. At least ten (10) days to the date set for hearing, the board shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdictional area a notice of the time and place of the hearing.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 246, L. 1957, amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3834. Resolution adopting master plan and recommending ordinance. After consideration of the recommendations and suggestions elicited at the public hearing, the planning board shall by resolution recommend the proposed master plan and any proposed ordinances and resolutions for its implementation to the governing bodies of the governmental units represented on the board.

History: En. Sec. 34, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3835 to 11-3839. Repealed--Chapter 247, Laws of 1963.

11-3840. Adoption of master plan--policy and pattern of development. The governing bodies shall adopt, revise or reject such proposed plan or any of its parts. After adoption of the master plan the city council, the board of county commissioners, or other governing body within the territorial jurisdiction of the board shall be guided by and give consideration to the general policy and pattern of development set out in the master plan in the:

1. Authorization, construction, alteration, or abandonment of public ways, public places, public structures, or public utilities,

2. Authorization, acceptance, or construction of water mains, sewers, connections, facilities, or utilities;

3. Adoption of subdivision controls;
4. Adoption of zoning ordinances or regulations.

History: En. Sec. 40, Ch. 246, L. 1957; ~~and~~ Sec. 15, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3841. Repealed--Chapter 271, Laws of 1959.

11-3842. Plats of subdivisions--approval by planning board.

- (1) Where a master plan has been approved, the city council may by ordinance or the board of county commissioners may by resolution require subdivision plats to conform to the provisions of the master plan. Certified copies of such ordinance shall be filed with the city or town clerk and with the county clerk and recorder of the county.
- (2) Thereafter a plat involving lands within the corporate limits of the city and covered by said master plan shall not be filed without first presenting it to the planning board which shall make a report to the city council advising as to compliance or noncompliance of the plat with the master plan. The city council shall have the final authority to approve the filing of such plat.
- (3) Thereafter a plat involving lands outside the corporate limits of the city and covered by said master plan shall not be filed without first presenting it to the planning board which shall make a report to the board of county commissioners advising as to the compliance or noncompliance of the plat with the master plan. The board of county commissioners shall have the final authority to approve the filing of such plat.
- (4) Nothing herein contained shall be interpreted to limit the present powers of the city or county governments, but shall be an additional requirement before any plat may be filed of record or entitled to be recorded.

History: En. Sec. 42, Ch. 246, L. 1957; am. Sec. 4, Ch. 271, L. 1959; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 247, L. 1963; amdt. Sec. 9, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

11-3842.1. Advice of planning board required. The governing body of any city, town or county which has formed a planning board and adopted a comprehensive plan and subdivision regulations

pursuant to Title 11, chapter 38, R.C.M. 1947, shall seek the advice of the appropriate planning board in all matters pertaining to the approval or disapproval of plats or subdivisions.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 19, L. 1971.

11-3843 through 11-3848. Repealed--Chapter 500, Laws of 1973.

11-3849 through 11-3850. Repealed--Chapter 271, Laws of 1959.

11-3851. Repealed--Chapter 500, Laws of 1973.

11-3852. Repealed--Chapter 246, Laws of 1963.

11-3853. Act not to prevent recovery and use of mineral or forest or agricultural resources. Nothing in this act shall be deemed to authorize an ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation which would prevent the complete use, development, or recovery of any mineral, forest, or agricultural resources by the owner thereof.

History: En. Sec. 53, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 271, L. 1959.

11-3854. Repealed--Chapter 246, Laws of 1963, Chapter 247, Laws of 1963.

11-3855. Validation of prior zoning ordinances, rules and regulations. All zoning ordinances or resolutions and rules and regulations and all amendments, supplements, and changes thereto legally adopted under any prior enabling act and all actions taken under the authority of any such ordinances or resolutions, are hereby validated and continued in effect, until amended or repealed by action of the governing bodies taken under the authority of this act.

History: En. Sec. 55, Ch. 246, L. 1957; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 247, L. 1963.

11-3856 to 11-3858. Repealed--Chapter 247, Laws of 1963.

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF:

CHAPTER 27

BUILDING REGULATIONS--ZONING COMMISSION

Section 11-2701. Building restrictions by cities and towns authorized.  
11-2702. Districts for effecting building restrictions.  
11-2702.1 Community residential facility -- defined.  
11-2702.2 Foster, boarding homes, community residential facilities considered residential.  
11-2703. Purposes of act.  
11-2704. Method of procedure.  
11-2705. Changes.  
11-2706. Zoning commission.  
11-2707. Board of adjustment.  
11-2708. Enforcement and remedies.  
11-2709. Conflict with other laws.  
11-2710. Repealed.  
11-2711. Interim zoning ordinances -- when permitted -- duration.

11-2701. Building restrictions by cities and towns authorized.  
For the purpose of promoting health, safety, morals, or the general welfare of the community, the city or town council, or other legislative body of cities and incorporated towns is hereby empowered to regulate and restrict the height, number of stories, and size of buildings and other structures, the percentage of lot that may be occupied, the size of yards, courts, and other open spaces, the density of population, and the location and use of buildings, structures and land for trade, industry, residence, or other purposes.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 1929.

11-2702. Districts for effecting building restrictions. (1) For any or all of said purposes the local city or town council or other legislative body may divide the municipality into districts of such number, shape, and area as may be deemed best suited to carry out the purposes of this act; and within such districts it may regulate and restrict the erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, or use of buildings, structures,

or land. All such regulations shall be uniform for each class or kind of buildings throughout each district, but the regulations in one district may differ from those in other districts.

(2) The local city or town council, or other legislative body which has adopted a master plan pursuant to Title 11, chapter 38 may extend the application of its zoning or subdivision regulations or both beyond its limits in any direction, but not in a county which has adopted such regulations within the contemplated area; provided that a city of the first class as defined in section 11-201 of this code may not extend the application of its zoning or subdivision regulations or both more than three (3) miles beyond its limits, a city of the second class may not so extend more than two (2) miles beyond its limits, and a city or town of the third class may not so extend more than one (1) mile beyond its limits. Provided, further, that where two or more noncontiguous cities have boundaries so near to one another as to create an area of potential conflict in the event that all cities concerned should exercise the full powers conferred by this section, then the extension of zoning or subdivision regulations or both by these cities shall terminate at a boundary line agreed upon by the cities so concerned. Any city or town council or other legislative body, may thereafter enforce such regulations in the area to the same extent as if such property were situated within its corporate limits, until the county board adopts a master plan pursuant to Title 11, chapter 38 and accompanying zoning or subdivision resolutions or both which include the area. As a prerequisite to the exercise of this power, a city-county planning board whose jurisdictional area includes the area to be regulated must be formed or an existing city planning board must be increased to include two (2) representatives from the unincorporated area which is to be affected. These representatives shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners. Such representation, however, shall cease when the county board adopts a master plan pursuant to Title 11, chapter 38 and accompanying zoning or subdivision resolutions or both which include the area.

A city or town, which has as its plan of government the commission-manager plan, shall be excluded from the provision of section 11-2702 (2) which defines extraterritorial authority to review proposed subdivisions.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 354, L. 1973.

11-2702.1. Community residential facility -- defined. "Community residential facility" means (1) a group, foster, or other home specifically provided as a place of residence for developmentally disabled or handicapped persons who do not require nursing care, or (2) a district youth guidance home established

pursuant to section 10-1103, or (3) a halfway house operated in accordance with regulations of the department of health and environmental sciences for the rehabilitation of alcoholics or drug dependent persons, or (4) a licensed adult foster family care home.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 350, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 129, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 364, L. 1975, eff. Oct. 1, 1975.

11-2702.2 Foster, boarding homes, community residential facilities considered residential. A foster or boarding home operated under the provision of sections 10-520 through 10-523, or community residential facility serving eight (8) or fewer persons, is considered a residential use of property for purposes of zoning if the home provides care on a twenty-four (24) hour a day basis.

The homes are a permitted use in all residential zones, including, but not limited to, residential zones for single-family dwellings. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit a city or county from requiring a conditional use permit in order to maintain a home pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph; provided such home is licensed by the department of health and environmental sciences and the department of social and rehabilitation services. Any safety or sanitary regulation of the department or any other agency of the state or political subdivision thereof which is not applicable to residential occupancies in general may not be applied to a community residential facility serving eight (8) or fewer persons.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 350, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 129, L. 1974.

11-2703. Purposes of act. Such regulations shall be made in accordance with a comprehensive plan and designed to lessen congestion in the streets; to secure safety from fire, panic, and other dangers; to promote health and the general welfare; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements. Such regulations shall be made with reasonable consideration, among other things to the character of the district and its peculiar suitability for particular uses, and with a view to conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout such municipality.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 136, L. 1929.

11-2704. Method of procedure. The city or town council, or other legislative body of such municipality shall provide for the manner in which such regulations and restrictions and the boundaries of such districts shall be determined, established, and enforced, and from time to time amended, supplemented, or changed. However, no such regulation, restriction, or boundary shall become effective until after a public hearing in relation thereto, at which parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard. At least fifteen (15) days notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be published in an official paper, or a paper of general circulation, in such municipality.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 136, L. 1929.

11-2705. Changes. Such regulations, restrictions, and boundaries may from time to time be amended, supplemented, changed, modified, or repealed. In case, however, of a protest against such change, signed by the owners of twenty per centum (20%) or more either of the area of the lots included in such proposed change, or of those immediately adjacent in the rear thereof extending one hundred and fifty (150) feet therefrom, or of those adjacent on either side thereof within the same block, or of those directly opposite thereof extending one hundred and fifty (150) feet from the street frontage of such opposite lots, such amendment shall not become effective except by the favorable vote of three-fourths (3/4) of all the members of the city or town council or legislative body of such municipality. The provisions of the previous section relative to public hearings and official notice shall apply equally to all changes or amendments.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 136, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 161, L. 1969.

11-2706. Zoning commission. In order to avail itself of the powers conferred by this act, the city or town council or other legislative body, shall appoint a commission, to be known as the zoning commission, to recommend the boundaries of the various original districts and appropriate regulations to be enforced therein. Such commission shall make a preliminary report and hold public hearings thereon before submitting its final report, and such city or town council or other legislative body shall not hold its public hearings or take action until it has received the final report of such commission.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 136, L. 1929.

11-2707. Board of adjustment. Such city or town council or other legislative body may provide for the appointment of a board of adjustment, and in the regulations and restrictions adopted pursuant to the authority of this act may provide that the said board of adjustment may, in appropriate cases, and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, make special exceptions to the terms of the ordinance in harmony with its general purposes and intent and in accordance with the general or specific rules therein contained.

An ordinance adopted pursuant to this section providing for a board of adjustment may restrict the authority of the board and provide that the city or town council, or the legislative body, reserves to itself the power to make certain exceptions to regulations, ordinances, or land-use plans adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(1) The board of adjustment shall consist of five (5) members, each to be appointed for a term of three (3) years and removable for cause by the appointing authority upon written charges and after public hearing. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of any member whose term becomes vacant.

(2) The board shall adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of any ordinance adopted pursuant to this act. Meetings of the board shall be held at the call of the chairman and at such other times as the board may determine. Such chairman, or in his absence the acting chairman, may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses. All meetings of the board shall be open to the public. The board shall keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the vote of each member upon each question, or if absent or failing to vote, indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions, all of which shall be immediately filed in the office of the board and shall be a public record.

(3) Appeals to the board of adjustment may be taken by any person aggrieved or by any officer, department, board, or bureau of the municipality affected by any decision of the administrative officer. Such appeal shall be taken within a reasonable time, as provided by the rules of the board, by filing with the officer from whom the appeal is taken and with the board of adjustment a notice of appeal specifying the grounds therefor. The officer from whom the appeal is taken shall forthwith transmit to the board all papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed was taken.

(4) An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from, unless the officer from whom the appeal is taken certifies to the board of adjustment after the notice of appeal shall have been filed with him that he has no facts

stated in the certificate a stay would, in his opinion, cause imminent peril to life or property. In such case proceedings shall not be stayed otherwise than by a restraining order which may be granted by the board of adjustment or by a court of record on application on notice to the officer from whom the appeal is taken and on due cause shown.

The board of adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal, give public notice thereof, as well as due notice to the parties in interest, and decide the same within a reasonable time. Upon the hearing any party may appear in person or by attorney.

(5) The board of adjustment shall have the following powers:

To hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of this act or any ordinance adopted pursuant thereto.

To hear and decide special exceptions to the terms of the ordinance upon which such board is required to pass under such ordinance.

To authorize upon appeal in specific cases such variance from the terms of the ordinance as will not be contrary to the public interest, where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship, and so that the spirit of the ordinance shall be observed and substantial justice done.

(6) In exercising the above-mentioned powers such board may, in conformity with the provisions of this act, reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed from and may make such order, requirement, decision, or determination as ought to be made, and to that end shall have all the powers of the officer from whom the appeal is taken.

(7) The concurring vote of four (4) members of the board shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement, decision, or determination of any such administrative official, or to decide in favor of the applicant on any matter upon which it is required to pass under any such ordinance, or to effect any variation in such ordinance.

(8) Any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by any decision of the board of adjustment, or any taxpayer, or any officer, department, board, or bureau of the municipality, may present to a court of record a petition, duly verified, setting forth that such decision is illegal, in whole or in part,

specifying the grounds of the illegality. Such petition shall be presented to the court within thirty (30) days after the filing of the decision in the office of the board.

(9) Upon the presentation of such petition the court may allow a writ of certiorari directed to the board of adjustment to review such decision of the board of adjustment and shall prescribe therein the time within which a return thereto must be made and served upon the relator's attorney, which shall not be less than ten (10) days and may be extended by the court. The allowance of the writ shall not stay proceedings upon the decision appealed from, but the court may, on application, on notice to the board and on due cause shown, grant a restraining order.

(10) The board of adjustment shall not be required to return the original papers acted upon by it, but shall be sufficient to return certified or sworn copies thereof or of such portions thereof as may be called for by such writ. The return shall concisely set forth such other facts as may be pertinent and material to show the grounds of the decision appealed from and shall be verified.

(11) If, upon the hearing, it shall appear to the court that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter, it may take evidence or appoint a referee to take such evidence as it may direct and report the same to the court with his findings of fact and conclusions of law, which shall constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court shall be made. The court may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the decision brought up for review.

(12) Costs shall not be allowed against the board unless it shall appear to the court that it acted with gross negligence, or in bad faith, or with malice in making the decision appealed from.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 136, L. 1929; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 13, L. 1975.

11-2708. Enforcement and remedies. The city or town council, or other legislative body, may provide by ordinance for the enforcement of this act and of any regulation or ordinance made thereunder. A violation of this act, or of such ordinance or regulation is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor and such city or town council or other legislative body may provide for the punishment thereof by fine or imprisonment or both. It is also empowered to provide civil penalties for such violation.

In case any building or structure is erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, repaired, converted or maintained, or any building, structure, or land is used in violation of this act, or of any ordinance or other regulation made under authority conferred hereby, the proper local authorities of the municipality, in addition to other remedies, may institute any appropriate action or proceedings to prevent such unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, conversion, maintenance, or use, to restrain, correct, or abate such violation, to prevent the occupancy of such building, structure, or land, or to prevent any illegal act, conduct, business, or use in or about such premises.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 136, L. 1929.

11-2709. Conflict with other laws. Wherever the regulations made under authority of this act require a greater width or size of yards, courts, or other open spaces, or require a lower height of building or less number of stories, or require a greater percentage of lot to be left unoccupied, or impose other higher standards than are required in any other statute or local ordinance or regulation, the provisions of the regulations made under authority of this act shall govern. Wherever the provisions of any other statute or local ordinance or regulation require a greater width or size of yards, courts, or other open spaces, or require a lower height of building or a less number of stories, or require a greater percentage of lot to be left unoccupied, or impose other higher standards than are required by the regulations made under authority of this act, the provisions of such statute or local ordinance or regulation shall govern.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 136, L. 1929.

11-2710. Repealed. -- Chapter 246, Laws of 1963.

11-2711. Interim zoning ordinances--when permitted--duration. The city or town council, or other legislative body of such municipality, to protect the public safety, health, and welfare and without following the procedures otherwise required preliminary to the adoption of a zoning ordinance, may adopt as an urgency measure, an interim ordinance prohibiting any uses which may be in conflict with a contemplated zoning proposal which the legislative body is considering or studying or intends to study within a reasonable time. Such interim ordinance shall only be applicable within the city limits and up to one mile beyond the corporate boundaries of the city or town and shall take effect upon

passage; provided, however, a hearing is first held upon notice reasonably designed to inform all affected parties and in no event shall notice be less than publication in a newspaper of general circulation at least seven (7) days before the hearing; provided further, however, such interim ordinance shall be of no further force and effect six (6) months from the date of adoption thereof; provided, however, that after notice pursuant to section 11-2704, and pursuant to public hearing, the legislative body may extend such interim ordinance for one (1) year. Any such extension shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for passage and shall become effective upon passage. Not more than two (2) such extensions may be adopted.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 488, L. 1975.

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF:  
CHAPTER 38, SECTIONS 11-3859 THROUGH 11-3876  
MONTANA SUBDIVISION AND PLATTING ACT

Section 11-3859. Citation of subdivision act.  
11-3860. Statement of purpose.  
11-3861. Definitions.  
11-3862. Surveys required - exceptions - standards for monumentation.  
11-3863. Enforcement by governmental subdivisions - adoption of regulations - public hearing.  
11-3864. Dedication of portions of subdivisions to the public - cash donations in lieu of dedication - waivers.  
11-3865. Required abstract or title insurance - certification by city or county attorney.  
11-3866. Submission of subdivision plat to governing body - notice - hearing - approval - disapproval.  
11-3867. Filing of subdivision plat with county recorder - review of final subdivision plats and certificates of survey by examining land surveyor.  
11-3868. Fees.  
11-3869. Covenants run with the land.  
11-3870. Vacation of plat - easements of utilities.  
11-3871. Donations or grants to public considered a grant to donee.  
11-3872. Certificate of survey - when required - contents - form.  
11-3873. Index of plats to be kept by county clerk and recorder.  
11-3874. Correction of survey - at governing body's expense.  
11-3875. Administration of oaths by registered land surveyor.  
11-3876. Violation - misdemeanor.

11-3859. Citation of subdivision act. This act may be cited as the "Montana Subdivision and Platting Act."

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 500, L. 1973.



(4.1) "Irregularly shaped tract of land" means a parcel of land other than an aliquot part of the United States Government survey section or a United States Government lot the boundaries or areas of which cannot be determined without a survey or trigonometric calculation.

(5) "Planned unit development" means a land development project consisting of residential clusters, industrial parks, shopping centers, or office building parks, or any combination thereof which comprises a planned mixture of land uses built in a pre-arranged relationship to each other and having open space and community facilities in common ownership or use.

(6) "Plat" means a graphical representation of a subdivision showing the division of land into lots, parcels, blocks, streets, and alleys, and other divisions and dedications.

(7) "Preliminary plat" means a neat and scaled drawing of a proposed subdivision showing the layout of streets, alleys, lots, blocks, and other elements of a subdivision which furnish a basis for review by a governing body.

(8) "Final plat" means the final drawing of the subdivision and dedication required by this act to be prepared for filing for record with the county clerk and recorder and containing all elements and requirements set forth in this act and in regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

(9) "Registered land surveyor" means a person licensed in conformance with the Montana Professional Engineers' Registration Act (sections 66-2301 through 66-2347) to practice surveying in the state of Montana.

(10) "Registered professional engineer" means a person licensed in conformance with the Montana Professional Engineers' Registration Act (sections 66-2301 through 66-2347) to practice engineering in the state of Montana.

(11) "Subdivider" means any person who causes land to be subdivided or who proposes a subdivision of land.

(12) "Subdivision" means a division of land, or land so divided, which creates one or more parcels containing less than twenty (20) acres, exclusive of public roadways, in order that the title to or possession of the parcels may be sold, rented, leased, or otherwise conveyed, and shall include any resubdivision; and shall further include any condominium or area, regardless of its size, which provides or will provide multiple space for recreational camping vehicles, or mobile homes. A subdivision shall comprise only those parcels less than twenty (20) acres which have been segregated from the original tract, and the plat thereof shall show all such parcels whether contiguous or not. Provided, however, condominiums constructed on land divided in compliance with this chapter are exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

(13) "Occasional sale" means one sale of a division of land within any twelve-month period.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 1975.

11-3862. Surveys required - exceptions - standards for documentation. (1) All divisions of land for sale other than a subdivision after the effective date of this act into parcels which cannot be described as 1/32 or larger aliquot parts of a United States Government section or a United States government lot must be surveyed by or under the supervision of a registered land surveyor.

(2) Every subdivision of land after June 30, 1973, shall be surveyed and platted in conformance with this act by or under the supervision of a registered land surveyor. Subdivision plats shall be prepared and filed in accordance with this act and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. All division of sections into aliquot parts and retracement of lines must conform to United States bureau of land management instructions, and all public land survey corners shall be filed in accordance with the Corner Recordation Act of Montana (sections 67-2001 through 67-2019). Engineering plans, specifications, and reports required in connection with public improvements and other elements of the subdivision required by the governing body shall be prepared and filed by a registered engineer or a registered land surveyor as their respective licensing laws allow in accordance with this act and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

(3) The county clerk and recorder of any county shall not record any instrument which purports to transfer title to or possession of a parcel or tract of land which is required to be surveyed by this act unless the required certificate of survey or subdivision plat has been filed with the clerk and recorder and the instrument of transfer describes the parcel or tract by reference to the filed certificate or plat.

(4) Instruments of transfer of land which is acquired for state highways may refer by parcel and project number to state highway plans which have been recorded in compliance with section 32-2413, and are exempted from the surveying and plating requirements of this act; provided, however, that if such parcels are not shown on highway plans of record, instruments of transfer of such parcels shall be accompanied by and refer to appropriate certificates of survey and plats when presented for recording.

(5) The provisions of this act shall not apply to the division of state-owned land unless the division creates a second or subsequent parcel from a single tract for sale, rent or lease for residential purposes after July 1, 1974.

(6) Unless the method of disposition is adopted for the purpose of evading this act, the following divisions of land are not subdivisions under this act but are subject to the surveying requirements of this section for divisions of land not amounting to subdivisions.

(a) Divisions made for the purpose of relocating common boundary lines between adjoining properties.

(b) Divisions made for the purpose of a gift or sale to any member of the landowner's immediate family.

(c) Divisions made by sale or agreement to buy and sell where the parties to the transaction enter a covenant running with the land and revocable only by mutual consent of the governing body and the property owner that the divided land will be used exclusively for agricultural purposes. Any change in use of the land for anything other than agricultural purposes subjects the division to the provisions of this chapter.

(d) A single division of a parcel when the transaction is an occasional sale.

(7) Subdivisions created by rent or lease are exempt from the surveying and filing requirements of this act but must be submitted for review and approved by the governing body before portions thereof may be rented or leased.

(8) Unless the method of disposition is adopted for the purpose of evading this act, the requirements of this act shall not apply to any division of land:

(a) which is created by order of any court of record in this state or by operation of law, or which, in the absence of agreement between the parties to the sale, could be created by an order of any court in this state pursuant to the law of eminent domain (sections 93-9901 through 93-9926);

(b) which is created by a lien, mortgage, or trust indenture;

(c) which creates an interest in oil, gas, minerals, or water which is now or hereafter severed from the surface ownership of real property;

(d) which creates cemetery lots;

(e) which is created by the reservation of a life estate;

(f) which is created by lease or rental for farming and agricultural purposes.

(9) The sale, rent, lease, or other conveyance of one or more parts of a building, structure, or other improvement situated on one or more parcels of land is not a division of land, as that term is defined in this act, and is not subject to the requirements of this act.

(10) The department of community affairs shall, in conformance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act (sections 82-4201 through 82-4225), prescribe uniform standards for monumentation and for the form, accuracy, and descriptive content of records of survey.

(11) It shall be the responsibility of the governing body to require the replacement of all monuments removed in the course of construction.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 215, L. 1975.

11-3863. Enforcement by governmental subdivisions - adoption of regulations - public hearing. (1) The governing body of every county, city, and town shall, before July 1, 1974, adopt and provide for the enforcement and administration of subdivision regulations reasonably providing for the orderly development of their jurisdictional areas; for the coordination of roads within subdivided land with other roads; both existing and planned; for the dedication of land for roadways and for public utility easements; for the improvement of roads; for the provision of adequate open spaces for travel, light, air and recreation; for the provision of adequate transportation, water, drainage, and sanitary facilities; for the avoidance or minimization of congestion; and for the avoidance of subdivision which would involve unnecessary environmental degradation; and the avoidance of danger or injury to health, safety, or welfare by reason of natural hazard or the lack of water, drainage, access, transportation or other public services or would necessitate an excessive expenditure of public funds for the supply of such services.

Prior to adopting or amending subdivision regulations pursuant to this act, the governing body shall submit the proposed regulations or amendments to the division of planning of the department of community affairs for review.

Before the governing body adopts subdivision regulations pursuant to this section it shall hold a public hearing thereon and shall give public notice of its intent to adopt such regulations and of the public hearing by publication of notice of the time and place of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in

the county not less than fifteen (15) nor more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the hearing.

(2) Not later than December 31, 1973, the department of community affairs, through its division of planning, shall, in conformance with the Montana Administrative Procedure Act (sections 82-4201 through 82-4225), prescribe reasonable minimum requirements for subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to this act. The minimum requirements shall include detailed criteria for the content of the environmental assessment required by this act. The department shall provide for the review of preliminary plats by those agencies of state and local government and affected public utilities having a substantial interest in proposed subdivision; provided, however, that such agency or utility review shall not delay the governing body's action on the plat beyond the time limit specified herein and the failure of any agency to complete a review of a plat shall not be a basis for rejection of the plat by the governing body.

(3) In prescribing the minimum contents of the subdivision regulations, the department of community affairs, through its division of planning, shall require the submission by the subdivider to the governing body of an environmental assessment.

(3.1) When a subdivision is proposed in an area for which a master plan has been adopted pursuant to sections 11-3801 through 11-3856 and the proposed subdivision will be in compliance with the plan or when the subdivision will contain fewer than ten (10) parcels and less than twenty (20) acres, a planning board established pursuant to sections 11-3801 through 11-3856 and having jurisdiction over the area involved may exempt the subdivider from the completion of all or any portion of the environmental assessment. When such an exemption is granted, the planning board shall prepare and certify a written statement of the reasons for granting the exemption. A copy of this statement shall accompany the preliminary plat of the subdivision when it is submitted for review. Where no properly established planning board having jurisdiction exists, the governing body may grant exemptions as specified in this paragraph.

(4) Where required the environmental assessment shall accompany the preliminary plat and shall include:

(a) a description of every body or stream of surface water as may be affected by the proposed subdivision, together with available ground water information, and a description of the topography, vegetation and wildlife use within the area of the proposed subdivision;

(b) maps and tables showing soil types in the several parts of the proposed subdivision, and their suitability for any proposed developments in those several parts;

(c) a community impact report containing a statement of anticipated needs of the proposed subdivision for local services, including education and busing, roads and maintenance, water, sewage, and solid waste facilities, and fire and police protection;

(d) such additional relevant and reasonable information as may be required by the department through its division of planning.

(5) Local subdivision regulations shall include procedures for the summary review and approval of subdivision plats containing five (5) or fewer parcels where proper access to all lots is provided, where no land in the subdivision will be dedicated to public use for parks or playgrounds and which have been approved by the department of health and environmental sciences where such approval is required by sections 69-5001 through 69-5005; provided that reasonable local regulations may contain additional requirements for summary approval.

(6) Subdivision regulations may authorize the governing body to grant variances from the regulations when strict compliance will result in undue hardship and when it is not essential to the public welfare. Any variance granted pursuant to this subsection must be based on specific variance criteria contained in the subdivision regulations.

(7) Local regulations may provide that in lieu of the completion of the construction of any public improvements prior to the approval of a final plat, the governing body shall require a bond or other reasonable security, in an amount and with surety and conditions satisfactory to it, providing for and securing the construction and installation of such improvements within a period specified by the governing body and expressed in the bonds or other security.

(8) In the event that any governing body has not adopted subdivision regulations by July 1, 1974, which meet or exceed the prescribed minimum requirements, the department shall, through its division of planning, no later than January 1, 1975, promulgate reasonable regulations to be enforced by the governing body. If at any time thereafter the governing body adopts its own subdivision regulations, these shall supersede those promulgated by the department but shall not be less stringent.

History: Ind. Reg. 5, Ch. 500, 7/1/73, eff. 10/1/73, Ch. 334 I., 1974; and, Sec. 26, Ch. 177, L. 1974.

11-3864. Dedications of portions of subdivisions to the public - cash donations in lieu of dedications - waivers. (1) A plat of a residential subdivision shall show that one-ninth (1/9) of the combined area of lots five (5) acres or less in size and one-twelfth (1/12) of the combined area of lots greater than five (5) acres in size, exclusive of all other dedications, is forever dedicated to the public for parks or playgrounds. No dedication may be required for the combined area of those lots in the subdivision which are larger than ten (10) acres exclusive of all other dedications. The governing body, in consultation with the planning board having jurisdiction, may determine suitable locations for such parks and playgrounds.

(2) Where, because of size, topography, shape, location, or other circumstances, the dedication of land for parks or playgrounds is undesirable, the governing body may, for good cause shown, make an order to be endorsed and certified on the plat accepting a cash donation in lieu of the dedication of land and equal to the fair market value of the amount of land that would have been dedicated. For the purpose of this section, the fair market value is the value of the unsubdivided, unimproved land. Such cash donation shall be paid into the park fund to be used for the purchase of additional lands or for initial development of parks and playgrounds.

(3) If the proposed plat provides for a planned unit development with land permanently set aside for park and recreational uses sufficient to meet the needs of the persons who will ultimately reside therein, the governing body may issue an order waiving land dedication and cash donation requirements.

(4) If a tract of land is being developed under single ownership as a part of an overall plan, and part of the tract has been subdivided and sufficient park lands have been dedicated to the public from the area that has been subdivided to meet the requirements of this section for the entire tract being developed, the governing body shall issue an order waiving the land dedication and cash donation requirements for the subsequently platted area.

(5) The local governing body may waive dedication and cash donation requirements where all of the parcels in a subdivision are five (5) acres or more in size and where the subdivider enters a covenant to run with the land and revocable only by mutual consent of the governing body and the property owner that the parcels in the subdivision will never be subdivided into parcels of less than five (5) acres and that all parcels in the subdivision will be used for single family dwellings.

(6) The governing body may waive dedication and cash donation requirements when the subdivider agrees to create a property

owners' association for the proposed subdivision and to lead to the association land to be held in perpetuity for use as parks or playgrounds. The area of land to be dedicated to the association shall equal the amount that would otherwise have been dedicated to public use.

(7) The governing body may waive requirements of minimum donation requirements for subdivision to be created by grant or lease where the subdivider agrees to develop parks or playgrounds within the subdivision for the common use of the residents of the subdivision. The area of land to be reserved for this purpose shall equal the amount that would otherwise have been dedicated to the public.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 500, L. 1976; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 334, L. 1974.

11-3865. Required abstract or title insurance - certification by city or county attorney. (1) The subdivider shall submit with the final plat a certificate of a licensed title abstractor showing the names of the owners of record of the land to be subdivided and the names of lien holders or claimants of record against the land and the written consent to the subdivision by the owners of the land, if other than the subdivider, and any lien holders or claimants of record against the land.

(2) The governing body may provide for the review of the abstract or certificate of title of the land in question by the county attorney where the land lies in an unincorporated area or by the city or town attorney where the land lies within the limits of a city or town.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 500, L. 1976; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 334, L. 1974.

11-3866. Submission of subdivision plat to governing body - notice - hearing - approval - disapproval. (1) Except where a plat is eligible for summary approval the subdivider shall present to the governing body, or the agent or agency designated thereby, the preliminary plat of the proposed subdivision for local review. When the proposed subdivision lies within the boundaries of an incorporated city or town the preliminary plat shall be submitted to and approved by the city or town governing body. When the proposed subdivision consists of land situated entirely in an unincorporated area the preliminary plat shall be submitted to and approved by the county. However, if the proposed subdivision lies within the boundaries of a third class city or town or within the boundaries of a second class city or within three miles of the boundary of a first class city

the county governing body shall submit the preliminary plat to the city or town governing body or its designated agent for review and comment. If the proposed subdivision lies partly within an incorporated city or town, the proposed plat thereof must be submitted to and approved by both the city or town and the county governing bodies. This section does not limit the authority of certain municipalities to regulate subdivisions beyond their corporate limits pursuant to section 11-3305.

(2) The governing body shall approve, conditionally approve, or reject the preliminary plat within sixty (60) days of its presentation unless the subdivider consents to an extension of the review period. The preliminary plat shall show all pertinent features of the proposed subdivision and all proposed improvements. The governing body or its designated agent or agency shall review the preliminary plat to determine whether it conforms to the local master plan if one has been adopted pursuant to sections 11-3801 through 11-3856 to the provisions of this act, and to rules and regulations prescribed or adopted pursuant to this act.

(3) The governing body or its authorized agent or agency shall hold a public hearing on the preliminary plat and shall consider all relevant evidence relating to the public health, safety and welfare, including the environmental assessment, to determine whether the plat should be approved, conditionally approved, or disapproved by the governing body. Notice of such hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the hearing. The subdivider and each property owner of record immediately adjoining the land included in the plat shall also be notified of the hearing by registered mail not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the hearing. When a hearing is held by an agent or agency designated by the governing body, the agent or agency shall act in an advisory capacity and recommend to the governing body the approval, conditional approval, or disapproval of the plat. This recommendation must be submitted to the governing body in writing not later than ten (10) days after the public hearing. If the governing body rejects or conditionally approves the preliminary plat, it shall forward one (1) copy of the plat to the subdivider accompanied by a letter over the appropriate signature stating the reason for rejection or enumerating the conditions which must be met to assure approval of the final plat.

(4) The basis for the governing body's decision to approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove a subdivision shall be whether the preliminary plat, environmental assessment, public hearing, planning board recommendations and additional information demonstrate that development of the subdivision would be in the public interest. The governing body shall disapprove any subdivision which it finds not to be in the public interest. To determine whether the proposed subdivision would be in the public interest the governing body shall issue written findings of fact which weigh the following criteria for public interest:

- (a) the basis of the need for the subdivision;
- (b) expressed public opinion;
- (c) effects on agriculture;
- (d) effects on local services;
- (e) effects on taxation;
- (f) effects on the natural environment;
- (g) effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, and
- (h) effect on the public health and safety.

(5) Upon approving or conditionally approving a preliminary plat, the governing body shall provide the subdivider with a dated and signed statement of approval. This approval shall be in force for not more than one (1) calendar year; at the end of this period the governing body may, at the request of the subdivider, extend its approval for no more than one (1) calendar year.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 334, L. 1974; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 1975.

11-3867. Filing of subdivision plat with county recorder - review of final subdivision plats and certificates of survey by examining land surveyor. (1) The governing body may require that final subdivision plats and certificates of survey be reviewed for errors and omissions in calculation or drafting by an examining land surveyor before recording with the county clerk and recorder. When the survey data shown on the plat or certificate of survey meet the conditions set forth by or pursuant to this act, the examining land surveyor shall so certify in a printed or stamped certificate on the plat or certificate of survey; such certificate shall be signed by him.

No land surveyor shall act as an examining land surveyor in regard to a plat or certificate of survey in which he has a financial or personal interest.

(2) The governing body shall examine every final subdivision plat and shall approve it when, and only when, it conforms to the conditions of approval set forth on the preliminary plat and to the terms of this act and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The clerk and recorder of the county shall refuse to accept any plat for record that fails to have such approval in proper form.

(3) Every final subdivision plat must be filed for record with the county clerk and recorder before title to the subdivided land can be sold or transferred in any manner or offered for sale or transfer. If illegal transfers or offers of any manner are made, the county attorney shall commence action to enjoin further sales, transfers, or offers of sale or transfer and compel compliance with all provisions of this act. The cost

of such action shall be imposed against the person transferring or offering to transfer the property.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 500, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 334, L. 1974.

11-3868. Fees. The governing body may establish reasonable fees to be paid by the subdivider to defray the expense of reviewing subdivision plats.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 500, L. 1973.

11-3869. Covenants run with the land. All covenants shall be considered to run with the land, whether marked or noted on the subdivision plat or contained in a separate instrument recorded with the plat.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 500, L. 1973.

11-3870. Vacation of plat - easements of utilities. (1) Any plat prepared and recorded as herein provided may be vacated either in whole or in part as provided by sections 11-2801 and 11-2803, and upon such vacation the title to the streets and alleys of such vacated portions to the center thereof shall revert to the owners of the properties within the platted area adjacent to such vacated portions; provided however, that when any pole line, pipeline, or any other public or private facility that is located in a vacated street or alley at the time of the reversion of the title thereto, the owner of said public or private utility facility shall have an easement over the vacated land to continue the operation and maintenance of the public utility facility.

(2) All plats, certificates of survey, and other title records recorded after June 30, 1973, and prior to the effective date of this act in accordance with the law in force at the time of recording, and all plats, certificates of survey, and other title records recorded prior to July 1, 1973, and which have not been subsequently vacated are hereby validated, notwithstanding irregularities, and have the same legal status as plats recorded under the provisions of this act.

(3) The recording of any plat made in compliance with the provisions of this act shall serve to establish the identity of all lands shown on and being a part of such plat. Where lands are conveyed by reference to a plat, the plat itself or any copy of the plat properly certified by the county clerk and recorder as being a true copy thereof, shall be regarded as incorporated into the instrument of conveyance and shall be received

in evidence in all courts of this state.

(4) This act shall not be applicable to deeds, contracts, leases, or other conveyances executed prior to the effective date of this act. Any instrument affecting real property which was executed prior to July 1, 1973, shall be deemed to be valid notwithstanding any failure to comply with platting or subdividing requirements in effect prior to July 1, 1973, and shall have the same force and effect as instruments complying with such platting and subdividing requirements.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 500, L. 1973; and. Sec. 8, Ch. 334, L. 1974.

11-3871. Donations or grants to public considered a grant to donee. Every donation or grant to the public, or to any person, society, or corporation, marked or noted on a plat is to be considered a grant to the donee.

History En. Sec. 13, Ch. 500, L. 1973.

11-3872. Certificate of survey - when required, contents - form. (1) Within one hundred eighty (180) days of the completion of a survey the registered land surveyor responsible for the survey, whether he is privately or publicly employed, shall prepare and file for record a certificate of survey in the county in which the survey was made if the survey:

(a) provided material evidence not appearing on any map filed with the county clerk and recorder or contained in the records of the United States bureau of land management;

(b) reveals a material discrepancy in such map;

(c) discloses evidence to suggest alternate locations of lines or points;

(d) establishes one or more lines not shown on a recorded map the positions of which are not ascertainable from an inspection of such map without trigonometric calculations.

(2) A certificate of survey will be required for any survey which is made by the United States bureau of land management or which is preliminary or which will become part of a subdivision plat being prepared for recording under the provisions of this act.

(3) Certificates of survey shall be legibly drawn, printed, or reproduced by a process guaranteeing a permanent record and shall conform to monumentation and surveying requirement, promulgated under this act.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 500, L. 1973.

11-3873. Index of plats to be kept by county clerk and recorder. The county clerk and recorder shall maintain an index of all recorded subdivision plats and certificates of survey. This index shall list plats and certificates of survey by the quarter section, section, township, and range in which the platted or surveyed land lies and shall list the recording or filing numbers of all plats depicting lands lying within each quarter section. Each quarter section list shall be definitive to the exclusion of all other quarter sections. The index shall also list the names of all subdivision plats in alphabetical order and the place where filed.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 500, L. 1973.

11-3874. Correction of survey - at governing body's expense. When a recorded plat does not definitely show the location or size of lots or blocks, or the location or width of any street or alley, the governing body may at its own expense cause a new and correct survey and plat to be made and recorded in the office of the county clerk. The corrected plat must, to the extent possible, follow the plan of the original survey and plat. The surveyor making the resurvey shall endorse the corrected plat referring to the original plat and noting the defect existing therein and the corrections made.

History. En. Sec. 16, Ch. 500, L. 1973.

11-3875. Administration of oaths by registered land surveyor. Every registered land surveyor may administer and certify oaths:

(1) when it becomes necessary to take testimony for the identification of old corners or re-establishment of lost or obliterated corners;

(2) when a corner or monument is found in a deteriorating condition and it is desirable that evidence concerning it be perpetuated;

(3) when the importance of the survey makes it desirable to administer an oath to his assistants for the faithful performance of their duty.

A record of oaths shall be preserved as part of the field notes of the survey, and noted on the certificate of survey filed under this section.

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 500, L. 1973.

11-3876. Violation - misdemeanor. Any person who violates any provision of this act or any local regulations adopted pursuant thereto shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred (\$100) or more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than three (3) months, or by both fine and imprisonment. Each sale, lease or transfer, or offer for sale, lease, or transfer of each separate parcel of land in violation of any provision of this act or any local regulation adopted pursuant thereto shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 500, L. 1973.

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CHAPTER 47

ZONING DISTRICTS

Section 16-4701      Purpose of act--powers of county commissioners  
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16-4701. Purpose of act--powers of county commissioners. For the purpose of promoting the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the people in cities and towns and counties whose governing bodies have adopted a comprehensive development plan for jurisdictional areas pursuant to Title 11, chapter 38, the board of county commissioners in such counties are authorized to adopt zoning regulations for all or parts of such jurisdictional areas in accordance with the provisions of this act.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 246, L. 1963.

16-4702. Recommendations by county planning board and city-county planning board. The board of county commissioners shall require the county planning board and the city-county planning board to recommend boundaries and appropriate regulations for the various zoning districts. The county planning board and the city-county planning board shall make written reports of their recommendations to the board of county commissioners, but such recommendations shall be advisory only. This section shall apply to either the county planning board or the city-county planning board where only one of these planning boards has been established.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 236, L. 1961; ame. Sec. 1, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

16-4703. Establishment of districts--regulations for land use--scope--uniformity. (1) Within the unincorporated portions of a jurisdictional area which has been established under provisions of section 11-38-0 or section 11-38-0.1, the board of county commissioners may by resolution establish zoning districts and zoning regulations for all or parts of the jurisdictional area.

(2) Within some such zoning districts it shall be lawful and within others it shall be unlawful to erect, construct, alter or maintain certain buildings, or to carry on certain trades, industries or callings.

(3) Within each district the height and bulk of future buildings and the area of the yards, courts and other open spaces and the future uses of the land or buildings shall be limited and future building setback lines shall be established.

(4) All such regulations shall be uniform for each class or kind of buildings throughout a district, but the regulations in one (1) district may differ from those in other districts.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 246, L. 1961; ame. Sec. 18, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

16-4704. Purposes of regulations--factors considered. The zoning regulations shall be made in accordance with a comprehensive development plan, and shall be designed to lessen congestion in the streets; to secure safety from fire, panic, and other dangers; to promote health and general welfare; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements. Such zoning regulations shall be made with reasonable consideration, among other things, to the character of the district and its peculiar suitability for particular uses, and with a view to conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout such jurisdictional area, and the zoning regulations shall, as nearly as possible, be made compatible with the zoning ordinance of the municipality within the jurisdictional area.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 246, L. 1961.

16-4705. Procedure for adoption of regulations and boundaries.  
The board of county commissioners shall observe the following procedures in the establishment or revision of boundaries for zoning districts and in the adoption or amendment of zoning regulations:

(1) Notice of a public hearing on the proposed zoning district boundaries and of regulations for the zoning district shall be published once a week for two (2) weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. The notice shall state:

- (a) the boundaries of the proposed district;
- (b) the general character of the proposed zoning regulations;
- (c) the time and place of the public hearing;
- (d) that the proposed zoning regulations are on file for public inspection at the office of the county clerk and recorder.

(2) At the public hearing the board of county commissioners shall give the public an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed zoning district and regulations.

(3) After the public hearing the board of county commissioners shall review the proposals of the planning board and shall make such revisions or amendments as it may deem proper.

(4) The board of county commissioners may pass a resolution of intention to create a zoning district and to adopt zoning regulations for the district.

(5) The board of county commissioners shall publish notice of passage of the resolution of intention once a week for two (2) weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. The notice shall state:

- (a) the boundaries of the proposed district;
- (b) the general character of the proposed zoning regulations;
- (c) that the proposed zoning regulations are on file for public inspection at the office of the county clerk and recorder;
- (d) that for thirty (30) days after first publication of this notice the board of county commissioners will receive written protests to the creation of the zoning district or to the zoning regulations from persons owning real property within the district whose names appear on the last completed assessment roll of the county.

(6) Within thirty (30) days after the expiration of the protest period the board of county commissioners may in its discretion adopt the resolution creating the zoning district and/or establishing the zoning regulations for the district; but if forty (40) percent of the freeholders within such district whose names appear on the last completed assessment roll shall have protested the establishment of the district or adoption of the regulations, the board of county commissioners shall not adopt the resolution and no further zoning resolution shall be proposed for the district for a period of one (1) year.

History: Am. Sec. 5, Ch. 246, L. 1961, and Am. Sec. 5, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

16-4706. Board of adjustment--exceptions to zoning--procedure--appeals. The board of county commissioners shall provide for the appointment of a board of adjustment, and in the regulations and restrictions adopted pursuant to the authority of this act shall provide that the board of adjustment may, in appropriate cases, and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, make special exceptions to the terms of the zoning resolution in harmony with its general purposes and intent and in accordance with the general or specific rules of this act.

(1) The board of adjustment shall consist of five (5) members, each to be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and removable for cause by the board of county commissioners upon written charges and after public hearing. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of any member whose term becomes vacant. The board of county commissioners may designate the same persons to act as members of the board of adjustment for unincorporated portions of the jurisdictional area as may be required by the municipality within the jurisdictional area under provisions of section 11-2707.

(2) The board of adjustment shall adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of any resolution adopted pursuant to this act. Meetings of the board of adjustment shall be held at the call of the chairman and at such times as the board may determine. Such chairman, or in his absence the acting chairman, may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses. All meetings of the board shall be open to the public. The chairman shall keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the day on which voted, upon each question, or if absent or divided, the reason for vacating such fact, and shall keep records of the committee and other official actions, all of which shall be transmitted and filed in the office of the board and shall be a public record.

(3) Appeals to the board of adjustment may be taken by any person aggrieved or by any officer, department, board, or bureau of the county affected by any decision of the administrative officer. Such appeal shall be taken within a reasonable time, as provided by the rules of the board, by filing with the officer from whom the appeal is taken and with the board of adjustment a notice of appeal specifying the grounds thereof. The officer from whom the appeal is taken shall forthwith transmit to the board all papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed was taken.

(4) An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from, unless the officer from whom the appeal is taken certifies to the board of adjustment after the notice of appeal shall have been filed with him that by reason of facts stated in the certificate a stay would, in his opinion, cause imminent peril to life or property. In such case, proceedings shall not be stayed other than by a restraining order which may be granted by the board of adjustment or by a court of record on application on notice to the officer from whom the appeal is taken and on due cause shown.

The board of adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal, give public notice thereof, as well as due notice to the parties in interest, and decide the same within a reasonable time. Upon the hearing any party may appear in person or by his attorney.

(5) The board of adjustment shall have the following powers: To hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of this act or of any resolution adopted pursuant thereto.

To hear and decide special exceptions to the terms of the zoning resolution upon which said board is required to pass under such resolution.

To authorize upon appeal in specific cases such variance from the terms of the resolution as will not be contrary to the public interest and where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the resolution will result in unnecessary hardship, and so that the spirit of the resolution shall be observed and substantial justice done.

(6) In exercising the above-mentioned powers, the board of adjustment may, in conformity with the provisions of this act, reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed from and may make such order, requirement, decision, or determination as ought to be made, and to that end shall have all the powers of the officer from whom the appeal is taken.

(7) The concurring vote of three (3) members of the board shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement, decision, or determination of any such administrative official, or to decide in favor of the applicant on any matter upon which it is required to pass under any such resolution, or to effect any variation in such resolution.

(8) Any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by any decision of the board of adjustment, or any taxpayer, or any officer, department, board, or bureau of the county, may present to a court of record a petition, duly verified, setting forth that such decision is illegal, in whole or in part, specifying the grounds of the illegality. Such petition shall be presented to the court within thirty (30) days after the filing of the decision in the office of the board.

(9) Upon presentation of such petition the court may allow a writ of certiorari directed to the board of adjustment to review such decision of the board of adjustment and shall prescribe therein the time within which a return thereto must be made and served upon the relator's attorney, which shall not be less than ten (10) days and may be extended by the court. The allowance of the writ shall not stay proceedings upon the decision appealed from, but the court may, upon application, on notice to the board and on due cause shown, grant a restraining order.

(10) The board of adjustment shall not be required to return the original papers acted upon by it, but it shall be sufficient to return certified or sworn copies thereof or of such portions thereof as may be called for by such writ. The return shall concisely set forth such other facts as may be pertinent and material to show the grounds of the decision appealed from and shall be verified.

(11) If, upon the hearing, it shall appear to the court that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter, the court may take evidence or appoint a referee to take such evidence as it may direct and report the same to the court with his findings of fact and conclusions of law, which shall constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court shall be made. The court may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the decision brought up for review.

(12) Costs shall not be allowed against the board unless it shall appear to the court that it acted with gross negligence, or in bad faith, or with malice in making the decision appealed from.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 246, L. 1963.

16-4707. Penalty for violations--enforcement proceedings. A violation of this act or any resolution adopted pursuant thereto is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six (6) months, or both.

In case any building or structure is erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, repaired, converted or maintained, or any building, structure or land is used in violation of this act, or of any resolution made under authority conferred hereby, the proper authorities of the county, in addition to other remedies, may institute any appropriate action or proceedings to prevent such unlawful erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, conversion, maintenance, or use, to restrain, correct or abate such violation, to prevent the occupancy of such building, structure or land, or to prevent any illegal act, conduct, business, or use in or about such premises.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 246, L. 1963.

16-4708. Enforcement officers--location and conformance permits. The board of county commissioners may appoint enforcing officers to supervise and enforce the provisions of the zoning resolutions, and may provide for the issuance of location or conformance permits and may collect a fee for each such permit, and the proceeds of such fees shall be deposited in the general fund of the county.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 246, L. 1963.

16-4709. Continuation of existing uses. Any lawful use which is made of land or buildings at the time any zoning resolution is adopted by the board of county commissioners may be continued, although such use does not conform to the provisions of such resolution.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 246, L. 1963.

16-4710. Natural resources protected. No resolution, rule or regulation adopted pursuant to the provisions of this act shall prevent the complete use, development or recovery of any mineral, forest, or agricultural resources by the owner thereof.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 246, L. 1963.

16-4711. Interim zoning map or regulation. If a county is conducting, or in good faith intends to conduct studies within a reasonable time, or has held or is holding a hearing for the purpose of considering a master plan or zoning regulations or an amendment, extension, or addition to either pursuant to this chapter, the board of county commissioners in order to promote the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare may adopt as an emergency measure a temporary interim zoning map or temporary interim zoning regulation, the purpose of which shall be to classify and regulate uses and related matters as constitute the emergency. Such interim resolution shall be limited to one (1) year from the date it becomes effective. The board of county commissioners may extend such interim resolution for one (1) year, but not more than one (1) such extension may be made.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF:  
CHAPTER 41  
COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING DISTRICTS

Section 16-4101. Planning and zoning districts--commission--creation.  
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16-4101. Planning and zoning districts--commission--creation  
Whenever the public interest or convenience may require, and upon petition of sixty per centum (60%) of the freeholders affected thereby, the board of county commissioners is hereby authorized and empowered to order and create a planning and zoning district, and to appoint a commission consisting of five (5) members. The commission is to consist of the three (3) county commissioners, the county surveyor and the county assessor. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation other than reimbursement for duly authorized expenses, and shall be residents of the county in which they serve. The commission hereby is authorized to appoint necessary employees and fix their compensation with the approval of the board of county commissioners, to select a chairman to serve for one (1) year, to appoint a secretary who shall keep permanent and complete records of its proceedings, and to adopt rules governing the transaction of its business. The finances necessary for the transaction of the planning and zoning commission's business and to pay the expenses of the employees and justified expenses of the members of the board shall be paid from a levy of not to exceed one (1) mill on the taxable valuation of the real property within such district, provided that no such planning or zoning district may be created in an area which has been zoned by an incorporated city pursuant to section 11-2702(2).

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 154, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 273, L. 1971.

16-4102. Development pattern. For the purpose of furthering the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the county, the county planning and zoning commission hereby is empowered, and it shall be its duty to make and adopt a development pattern for the physical and economic development of the planning and zoning district. Such development pattern, with the accompanying maps, plats, charts and descriptive matter, shall show the planning and zoning commission's recommendations for the development of the districts, within some of which it shall be lawful and with others of which it shall be unlawful to erect, construct, alter or maintain certain buildings, or to carry on certain trades, industries or callings, or within which the height and bulk of future buildings and the area of the yards, courts and other open spaces and the future uses of the land or buildings shall be limited and future building set backlines (sic) shall be established. No planning district or recommendations adopted under this act shall regulate lands used for grazing, horticulture, agriculture, or for the growing of timber; providing that existing non-conforming uses may be continued, although not in conformity with such zoning regulations.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 154, L. 1953.

16-4103. Adoption of development district. Adoption by the planning and zoning commission of the development district, or any change therein, may be in whole or in part, but must be by the affirmative vote of the majority of the whole commission, provided, however, that prior to any such adoption a public hearing shall have been held not less than fifteen (15) days after notice thereof shall have been posted in at least three (3) public places within the area affected. The resolution adopting the district or any part or parts covering one or more of the functional elements which may be included within the district, shall refer expressly to the maps, charts and descriptive matters forming the pattern or part thereof; provided that the board of county commissioners shall have the power to authorize such variance from the recommendations of the planning commission as will not be contrary to the public interest, where, owing to special conditions a literal enforcement of the decision of the planning and zoning commission will result in unnecessary hardship.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 154, L. 1953.

16-4104. Surveys and examinations--powers. The planning and zoning commission, and any of its members, officers and employees in the performance of their functions, may enter upon any land

and make examinations and surveys and place and maintain the necessary monuments and markers thereon. In general, the planning and zoning commission shall have such powers as may be appropriate to enable it to fulfill its functions and duties to promote county planning and to carry out the purposes of this act. All public officials, departments and agencies, having information, maps, and data deemed by the commission pertinent to county planning are hereby empowered and directed to make such information available for the use of the county planning and zoning commission.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 154, L. 1953.

16-4105. Regulations--appeals--permits for construction. The planning and zoning commission may, for the benefit and welfare of the county, prepare and submit to the board of county commissioners, drafts of resolutions for the purpose of carrying out the development districts, or any part thereof, previously adopted by the commission, including zoning and land use regulations, the making of official maps and the preservation of the integrity thereof, and including procedure for appeals from decisions made under the authority of such regulations, and regulations for the conservation of the natural resources of the county, and the board of county commissioners is hereby authorized to adopt such resolutions; provided that any person aggrieved by any decision of the commission or the board of county commissioners, may, within thirty (30) days after such decision or order, appeal to the district court in the county in which the property involved, is located. The planning and zoning commission hereby is empowered to authorize and provide for the issuance of permits as a prerequisite to construction, alteration or enlargement of any building or structure otherwise subject to the provisions of this act, and may establish and collect reasonable fees therefor. The fees so collected are to go to the general fund of the county.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 154, L. 1953.

16-4106. Effect of act upon powers of incorporated communities to plan adjacent areas. The authority heretofore granted by law to the incorporated communities to approve subdivision plats within the unincorporated area adjacent to their corporate limits is not abrogated by this act except and until the board of county commissioners having jurisdiction over such adjacent area establish a planning commission, and adopt initial regulations for subdivision control within adjacent areas or districts. Authority of the adjacent municipality shall be suspended on the effective date of the county regulation with respect to all areas governed by county subdivision regulations.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 154, L. 1953.

16-4107. "District" defined. For the purposes of this act the word "district" shall mean any area that consists of not less than forty (40) acres.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 154, L. 1953; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 229, L. 1955.



